



Marine Aircraft Group 26

Safety Bulletin

No. 23

4 February 2004



Photo of the Week... Stack 'em up



A few weeks ago I showed you a picture of some workers on a roof who had stacked ladders together to climb to the top. Well, it seems there's someone out there even crazier than they are. Direct your attention to the center ring, where you will see one crazy dude, trying to install a satellite dish on the chimney of this house. Not one to let the elements or lack of proper equipment to slow him down, he set up his ladder. "Shucks, it's too short," he said. So he got another one. "Shucks." Then another. "Double shucks." Finally, four ladders later, he reached the perfect spot and assembled his dish. Something inside this guy's head must have screamed, "This is nuts, you're gonna kill yourself!" So why didn't he listen to his conscience? Well, until we can figure

out an answer to that one, and develop an antidote, I guess we'll continue to see people get hurt while doing things like this. I sure am glad you're smart enough to know where to draw the line.

PMO Happenings...

- Speeding **11-15 mph over** posted speed limit: **7**
- Speeding in a school/ housing zone: **6**
- Expired state registration: **7**
- DWI first offense: **1**
- DWI refusal: **2**
- Owner allowing physically impaired driver drive: **1**

WEEKLY SAFETY FLAGALL

26 Jan - 1 Feb 2004

On Duty Ground:

040125 5th Bn, 10th Mar Howitzer Section, Sgt, Cpl (3), LCpl (3), PFC (2). Marines were en route to a firing position during the FSCEx phase of CAX 3-04 when crewmembers smelled smoke coming from their vehicle. The crew dismounted the MTRV and found flames rising from the net storage area behind the cab of the MTRV. The crew members attempted to extinguish the flames with water, but they were not successful. The flames spread rapidly and engulfed the MTRV vehicle along with (4) M-16A2 Service Rifles, (1) M2 .50 Cal Heavy Machine Gun, (1) PVS-7B, (1) M94 Chronograph, and (1) Gun Display Unit. The MTRV was not combat loaded with ammunition. No personnel were injured during this accident. An investigation is currently being conducted by 5th Bn, 10th Mar.

040126 SGT, 1ST MCD, MCRC. SNM crashed his government vehicle into the rear of a civilian van on Goshen Turnpike near Middletown, NY. SNM experienced no broken bones and is reported to be experiencing stomach pains.

040128 Sgt, RS Springfield, 1ST MCD. SNM was involved in a single government operated vehicle accident on I-95 enroute to MEPS Boston, MA. The vehicle occupants included the addition of two (2) Marine Corps applicants. Due to the snowy conditions and poor visibility on the road, the government vehicle veered off and impacted trees. SNM was treated for a minor head trauma and a broken shoulder.

Aviation: NONE

Off Duty:

040125 CPL, 8th Communications Bn. SNM lost control of his vehicle and collided with another vehicle near Richlands, NC. SNM is being treated for a possible skull fracture. The North Carolina Highway Patrol issued SNM two tickets, one for driving too fast during inclement weather conditions and one for defective equipment (worn tires).

040126 LCPL, 3D BN, 3D MAR. SNM was an injured passenger in a vehicle accident aboard MCB Hawaii. The driver lost control of the vehicle and struck a wall on the side of the road. SNM is being treated for a possible neck fracture. The injury may result in permanent damage.

040126 LCPL, 1ST BN 8TH MAR. SNM was a passenger in a vehicle accident in the vicinity of Hagerstown, MD. The driver lost control of his vehicle during inclement conditions and was unable to stop. The vehicle slid through an intersection and was struck by a truck. SNM has severe head injuries, a collapsed left lung and a lacerated spleen and is not expected to live.

040130 LCpl, HQBN, 3D MARDIV. SNM was traveling southbound on the Okinawa Expressway in his POV. SNM lost control of his vehicle as it hydroplaned while changing lanes on the wet road. The vehicle left the expressway and hit an embankment causing the POV to overturn. SNM was wearing his seatbelt and suffered a closed head injury.

Suicides:

040129 SSgt, I&I Lafayette, LA. SNM was found dead outside of his off-base residence. SNM's spouse discovered him in the back seat of his POV with a single gunshot wound to the right side of the head. An apparent suicide note was recovered from the vehicle.

FYI....In case you thought it was a silly claim about using the cell phone while pumping gas



The Petroleum Equipment Institute is working on a campaign to try and make people aware of fires as a result of "static" (that is, static electricity) at gas pumps. They have researched 150 cases of these fires. The results were very surprising:



- 1) Out of 150 cases, almost all of them were women.
- 2) Almost all cases involved the person getting back in their vehicle while the nozzle was still pumping gas. When finished, they went back to pull the nozzle out. The fire started then as a result of static discharge.
- 3) Most men never get back in their vehicle until completely finished. This is why they are seldom involved in these types of fires.
- 4) Most had on rubber-soled shoes.
- 5) **Don't ever use cell phones when pumping gas**. (The RF energy from a cell phone (a radio transmitter) can cause a sparking on bare metal, much like aluminum foil in a microwave oven.)
- 6) It is the vapors that come out of the gas that cause the fire, when connected with static discharges.

7) In 29 fires, the vehicle had been re-entered and the nozzle was touched during refueling. This occurred in a variety of makes and models. Some resulting in extensive damage to the vehicle, to the station, and to the customer.

8) Seventeen fires occurred before, during or immediately after the gas cap was removed and before fueling began.

****NEVER get back into your vehicle while filling it with gas. If you absolutely HAVE to get in your vehicle while the gas is pumping, make sure you get out, close the door TOUCHING THE METAL, before you touch the nozzle.** This way the static from your body will be discharged before you ever remove the nozzle.

As mentioned earlier, You can find out more information by going to <http://www.pei.org>. Once here, click in the center of the screen where it says "Stop Static." I ask you to please send this information to ALL your family and friends, especially those who have kids in the car with them while pumping gas. If this were to happen to them, they may not be able to get the children out in time.

Think about it!

The following was sent on an OPSEC Newsletter, and I wanted to pass it on...

Keep a watch out for people standing near you at retail stores, restaurants, grocery stores, etc., that have a cell phone in hand. With the new camera cell phones, they can take a picture of your credit card, which gives them your name, number, and expiration date. Other things that could be photographed are laptop screens (lots of our folks like to keep busy at the airports!), hardcopy documents being read, security badges, etc. Not to mention the concern about photographing personnel without their knowledge. Identification theft is one of the fastest growing scams today, and this is just another example of the means that are being used. So ... be aware of your surroundings.

Quotable Quotes

There are more fools in the world than there are people.

Heinrich Heine

Genius may have its limitations, but stupidity is not thus handicapped.

Elbert Hubbard

MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY COURSES

DRIVER IMPROVEMENT COURSE

Date: 11 Feb

Place: AS-212, Room 121A

Time: 0730-1600 (first 25 Marines, so be early)

REMEDIAL DRIVER IMPROVEMENT COURSE

Date: 13 Feb

Place: AS-212, Room 121A

Time: 0730-1130

Motorcycle BASIC RIDER COURSE (23 hours)

Fri 1700-2200 and 0700-1700 Sat and Sun.

23-25 Jan and 31 Jan- 2 Feb.

(Classes are held at Camp Johnson, call 938-6294 for details)

Motorcycle EXPERIENCED RIDER COURSE (11 hours)

The experienced rider must have an endorsement on his drivers license. 5-6 Mar: Fri 1700-2200 and Sat 0700-1300.

No permit is required to take the course at CCCC; however, an endorsement or proof of purchase/ownership is required to receive a voucher for the MCAS Safety Office to pay for the class. The Marine must present his driver license and ID card to receive the voucher. If the Marine has a motorcycle endorsement, he will need to take the experienced rider course. The phone number at Coastal for registration 938-6294